

Global Education Associates

Upper Midwest



0631 '99 MAY 17 A9:35

389 N, Oxford St.
St. Paul, MN 55104
~~612~~/649-0510
651

May 11, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Board Members

Rita Feeney, FSPA

Jeanne Hynes

John Hynes

Kathleen Mary Kiemen, SSND

Ted Lanpher

Beth Rademacher
GEA Intern

Thomas Rose, MD

Gladys Schmitz, SSND

Janet Watson

Board Chair

Helen Welter

Director

Dorothy Olinger, SSND

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food

To whom it may concern:

No subject is of greater concern than the food we eat. We have every right to know exactly what is in the food and how it has been processed and handled. Our concern is irradiation. Any food irradiated or containing ingredients treated by irradiation should be labeled clearly, large, on the principal display label and with the international symbol. To do anything less is to deny the public its right to choose the food it considers healthy. Terms or phrases with "pasteurization" are misleading. State clearly: irradiated food or ingredients.

Irradiation causes chemical changes that are not evident and are potentially hazardous. Meat may have a higher level of carcinogenic benzene; all irradiated products contain unique radiolytic products that have not been tested. (Center for Science in the Public Interest)

We encourage the FDA to require rather that meats and all products be produced in a hygienic environment to prevent disease, and that food be produced as far as possible in local areas where they can be used within a short time and not require a long shelf life. Even the thought of food on the shelf for months and years is unappealing. This may be beyond your area of responsibility, **but honest and clear labeling is your responsibility.**

We will be watching for your response. Thank you.

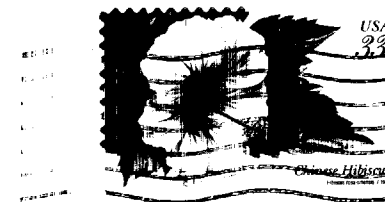
Sincerely,

Dorothy Olinger
Dorothy Olinger, SSND

98N-1038

C
C1674

Global Education Associates
Upper Midwest
389 N. Oxford St.
St. Paul, MN 55104



*Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305)
Food + Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061
Rockville, MD 20857*

20857/0001 